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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Confirmation No.: 3238
Richard ASSAKER et al.)
) Group Art Unit: 3731
)
Application Number: 10/771,284) Examiner: Unassigned
)
Filed: February 5, 2004)
)
For: BONE PLATE ASSEMBLY)

PETITION FOR UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED CLAIM
FOR FOREIGN PRIORITY UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(c)

Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for foreign priority of French Application FR 98 05558, filed April 30, 1998.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(c)(1), Applicants hereby claim priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to French Application FR 98 05558, filed April 30, 1998.

Submitted herewith is a check for \$1,330 covering the surcharge set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(t).

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(c)(3), the undersigned hereby states that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a)(1) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional.

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A certified copy of French Application FR 98 05558 was previously submitted in U.S. Application No. 09/692,894, now U.S. Patent No. 6,652,525, to which the present application claims priority. Pursuant to MPEP § 201.14(b) an additional certified copy of the French Application is not required to be submitted in the present application.

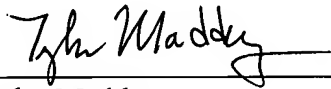
It is believed that no additional fees are due in connection with filing this petition. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or to credit any overpayment, to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP

June 18, 2004

By:


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